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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,986	01/12/2001	Sally J. Bull	52355 USA9B.014	3145
32692	7590	02/20/2004	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			AHMAD, NASSER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	20
DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/759,986	BULL ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Nasser Ahmad	1772		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 and 31-35 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24 and 31-35 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 19.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 3, 2003 has been entered.

Rejection Maintained

2. Claims 1-24 and 31-35 are rejected under double patenting over Application Serial No. 09/098,702 for reasons of record in paper no 10, paragraph-6, mailed on November 21, 2002.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed November 3, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant defers addressing the double patenting rejection until allowable subject matter is indicated in the instant application. This is not convincing because, in the absence of addressing the rejection, the double patenting rejection is maintained.

Thus, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it remains the examiner's position that the instant claimed invention is rejected under provisional double patenting as discussed above.

Rejection Withdrawn

4. Claims 1-24 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for reasons of record in paper no. 10, paragraph-6, mailed on November 21, 2002 has been withdrawn in view applicant's amendment to the claims to overcome said rejection in amendment filed on November 3, 2003.

New Grounds of Rejection

5. applicants' arguments filed on November 3, 2003 are moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-24 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andriash (5,679,435) in view of Meis (5,902,435).

Andriash relates to a graphic article comprising a perforated imageable component and a transparent polymeric cover component. The imageable component comprises an imageable opaque polymeric film layer, a light absorbing film adhered to one surface thereof and an image formed on the opposite surface. The cover component comprises a transparent film with an adhesive surface to adhere to the image layer (figure-2). However, Andriash fails to teach that the cover film is located

between two adhesive layers. Meis discloses in figure-9 a double sided adhesive backing or cover layer wherein the adhesive (86) on one surface is a hot melt adhesive and the other adhesive (90) is pressure sensitive adhesive. Also, it is shown in figure-8 that the appliqu  is attached to the hot melt adhesive to form the laminate. The backing film layer can be polyester, etc. (col.3, lines 28-32) which are known to be transparent material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Meis' teaching of using a double sided adhesive backing or cover film to adhere the imageable component to a substrate in the invention of Andriash with the motivation to provide for durability and protection to the image component.

Further, it is well known and conventional in the adhesive art to protect the adhesive surface with a release liner prior to its use.

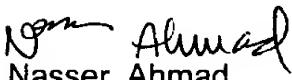
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1772

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
February 9, 2004.